

HOWAT LOSES FIGHT WITH COAL MINERS

Refused Reinstatement at Indianapolis After Gallant Effort.

VOTE 1959 TO 1366

Ballot Ends Long Battle Against Edicts of Union President.

LAST RETURNS TURN TIDE

Now the Kansas Leader Declares He Supposes He Will Leave for Russia.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 17.—By a margin of fewer than 100 its 3,525 votes, the delegate convention of the United Mine Workers of America here today refused to consider the appeal of Alexander Howat for the union reinstatement of himself and other expelled Kansas miners.

While the defeat was shown only by unofficial tabulations of the vote, Howat to-night conceded he had been beaten, as also did his principal supporter, Frank Farrington, the leader of the Illinois miners.

The official vote will not be completed until tomorrow, when the roll of absentee delegates will be called, but Mr. Howat said he doubted that any material change would result from the additional balloting.

In effect, the vote approved the expulsion of Howat and his followers by President John L. Lewis, who said he acted because of the refusal of the delegates to direct strikers to return to work as was ordered by the miners' convention last fall.

Surprising strength was shown by Howat during the day's roll call, and the result was not determined until 150 of the last 200 votes were cast against him. The final vote was 1,366 to 1,866.

"We gave them a good fight," said Howat, and then he added: "I suppose now I will have to get out of the United States and go to Russia."

Mr. Lewis said he was confident that the unofficial vote was conservative, and he interpreted the result "as best for the welfare of the union." Mr. Farrington said he regarded the vote as breaking Mr. Lewis's strength within the union, for he declared the result "means that Lewis is a dead bird now."

Howat's unexpected strength discouraged the administrative forces early in the day, a lead of only 500 being piled up before the Illinois delegation, having almost one-fourth of the vote in the convention, began casting almost a solid vote for Howat. By polling only 23 votes in Illinois the administration forces fell 300 votes behind Howat. A half score of smaller districts that followed Illinois favored the administration, practically tying the vote. All except two of the last seven districts, having a combined vote of 200, went against Howat, causing his defeat.

Besides Illinois, Howat carried Washington, Wyoming, Michigan, Montana, the central Pennsylvania bituminous field, known as District 21, comprising Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. All other districts of the union voted for the administration, but several gave a surprisingly large vote for Howat.

As soon as the official vote is completed tomorrow the union officials plan to direct the convention toward its main objective, the framing of the union wage policy. President Farrington of Illinois miners and the anti-administration leader, predicted to-night that the wage policy would be settled before adjournment tomorrow by a practically unanimous endorsement of the wage scale committee report, favoring a policy of accepting no wage reductions for soft coal miners and increases for the anthracite workers, backed up with a threat of a national coal strike on April 1. Mr. Lewis also predicted speedy adoption of the committee report, but thought the convention might continue through Monday.

PLANS MADE TO MEET COAL STRIKE CRISIS

Cabinet Discusses Ways and Means to Prevent Trouble.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.

Plans to meet the industrial crisis which must be overcome if there is a national coal mine and railroad strike on April 1, were laid before the Cabinet today when the members devoted their entire time to the coal and transportation problems and railroad rates, which are regarded by the President and his advisers as too high.

Administration officials are concerned over the railroad and mine labor situation. Determined measures will be taken to prevent any suffering by the people if transportation and mine production are crippled.

Attorney-General Daugherty is preparing to move when a crisis impends. Secretary Hoover is arranging for the feeding and clothing of urban communities and for keeping open transportation.

The Government has begun an investigation of the plans of union leaders in the bituminous fields to call a strike in the mines if the operators stand by their decision to slash the miners' wages on April 1. Attorney-General Daugherty has assigned Assistant Attorney-General John W. Cram in charge of the criminal division of the Department, to conduct the inquiry.

Any action which the Government would bring in the event a coal strike is called in all probability would follow the ineffective procedure that led to the coal strike crisis in 1919, although the Attorney-General has not disclosed his attitude officially, and may not do so for some time.

Government intervention through conciliators who probably would be named by the President would only come, it was said, if the two sides exhausted all means within their power to reach an agreement over the wage scales which are to go into effect April 1, the beginning of the new coal year.

Surveys show that there is a stored surplus of bituminous coal amounting to not more than 40,000,000 tons, scarcely more than enough to last a few days.

One of the grave dangers seen by Secretary Hoover and his associates is the halting of industrial activity at a time of the year when business is expected to take a decided impetus. Indications reflected in Government business surveys point to a large resumption of commercial activity during the coming spring, and if the main sources of bituminous supplies are shut off, it is recognized that industry will be hampered.

PRESIDENT SEES A SWING BACK TOWARD PROSPERITY

White House Calls Attention to Figures of Comptroller of the Currency That Show Most Satisfactory Trend in Finance Since 1919.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.

At the White House today attention was called to figures compiled by the Comptroller of the Currency indicating a swing back toward prosperity of the economic pendulum. The figures show an increase in bank resources, higher reserves, and in general the most satisfactory turn in financial affairs that has been registered by a bank statement since 1919.

Comptroller of the Currency Cragg issued today the consolidated statement of the national banks representing the bank call of December 31 last. The peak of banking capacity was reached in the statement of December 31, 1919, when the national banks reported aggregate resources of \$22,110,000,000. From that time there was a substantially steady decrease in the aggregate resources.

Upturn in Resources.

The statement today registers for the first time a substantial upturn in resources. It shows that the banks occupy a greatly improved and strengthened position as regards their resources, their deposits, their cash in hand and their deposits, which show an astonishing gain.

It demonstrates that the process of liquidation has been proceeding at such an excellent rate that it may fairly be said that the country is well on the road to getting the "frozen credits" thawed out. In this regard, indeed, it is by far the most satisfactory showing

FLEES BUNCO MEN IN FEAR OF MURDER

Continued from First Page.

each share cost several hundred dollars the shares were sold upon an installment plan with terms as easy as \$10 a month.

"The failure of the scheme," Mr. Cullen said, "lies in the fact that the law provides that only citizens of Florida may own or lease oyster beds and they are not transferable to citizens of other States."

Popham and his wife are former residents of Jacksonville. They left this city about two years ago to make their home in Apalachicola. Popham styles himself as a writer and says he was affiliated for years as an associate editor of the *Home and the World*, a publication issued here during the war by the United States Shipping Board.

FLORIDA SWINDLING LIKE GONDORF'S GAME

Confidence Men May Be Wire Tapper's Students.

The operations of confidence men at Florida resorts with \$1,500,000 profits for the season, as told exclusively in THE NEW YORK HERALD yesterday, recalls to New York police the activities of the famous Gondorf ring of "wireless wiretappers" in this city ten years ago. While no police official would comment upon the published names of men arrested in Florida it was conceded that the methods of the Southern band of bunco men smacked of the Gondorf tutelage.

Charles Gondorf, head of the ring, was sent to Sing Sing in 1914 for from five to ten years. His arrest, conviction and sentence were the culmination of twenty years' activity in the confidence field. Strong arm tactics used upon a reluctant English man caused his downfall. Eugene Adams, a London caterer, refused to give over his \$4,500 as readily as Gondorf's previous victims had. He was, accordingly, beaten up and thrown into the street from a "West End" hotel. Gondorf gained his freedom on parole in November, 1918, and so far as the police is concerned he has dropped out of sight.

George S. Dougherty, head of the Dougherty Detective Agency, who was a Deputy Police Commissioner in charge of the Detective Bureau when the Gondorf ring was broken up by the police said yesterday that the names of the men under arrest in Florida seemed familiar to him. Mr. Dougherty would not venture an opinion, however, whether these men had ever been engaged in wireless wiretapping operations in this city in the absence of photographs that he might compare with ones in a gallery of confidence men he possesses. The detective said it was highly possible that the band were ex-students of the Gondorfs.

The dispatch from Jacksonville printed in THE NEW YORK HERALD mentioned the name of William Werner, president of William Werner & Co., contractors and builders, of 130 Hale ave-

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Civil War Freight Car 'Dies with Its Boots On.'

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 17.—Announcement was made today by the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway that box car No. 90180, which was the first steel car ever brought South, and which was used by Sherman as an ammunition car in his advance on Atlanta in 1864, had "died with its boots on," having been destroyed by the explosion of a case of dynamite at Hollow Rock Junction.

WON'T FORCE ACTORS TO JOIN THE EQUITY

De Courville, British Producer, Is Unmoved by His Talk With Gompers.

Samuel Gompers had tea yesterday at the Hotel Chatham with Alfred de Courville, the British producer of "Pina and Needles," to discuss the row which has arisen between the English company and the Actors Equity Association over the refusal of the English cast to join the Equity. The interview was requested by Mr. Gompers, who wrote to Mr. De Courville that he would like to put certain points of view before him.

Mr. De Courville said last night after his talk that his position remained unchanged. "I see no reason," he said, "why my company should be forced to join the Equity. The members of the cast are in this country only temporarily. We make no such demands of American actors in London."

The English producer declared that Mr. Gompers was eager to hear his side of the controversy, that he appeared to have been misinformed concerning the motives of the English company. "Some one had apparently conveyed the impression to Mr. Gompers," he said, "that we are here to fight the Equity with foreign labor. We have nothing against the Equity. We simply resent its tactics."

Frank Gilmore, executive secretary of the Equity, announced yesterday that Mr. Gompers will address the Equity at the Republic Theater tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The "Pina and Needles" row is expected to be one of the matters discussed.

TO FILL SCOTT VACANCY.

Gov. Miller at the Hotel Plaza yesterday said he expected to appoint within a week a successor to former Justice Francis H. Scott as a member of the Charter Revision Commission. George A. Glynn, chairman of the Republican State Committee, had a long conference with the Governor. Last night the Governor attended a private dinner and he will leave for Albany this morning.

MEXICO IS WARNED OF FAKE DIPLOMATS

White House Denounces Persons Posing as Representatives of Both Countries.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.

Self-appointed representatives of both the American and Mexican governments have interfered seriously with the relations between the two countries, and were characterized to-day in a statement from the White House as the "ranked fakers and cheats."

This remarkable statement comes at a time when the situation in Mexico daily is becoming more tense, with revolutionary movements starting up here and there all over the country.

It was made clear in the White House statement that neither President Harding nor the State Department has had any personal representatives in Mexico, and that the only persons authorized to speak for this Government in Mexico City are the regularly accredited agents of the State Department and known as such.

The situation which has evoked the wrath of the Administration, is the result of a series of adventures in diplomacy on the part of Americans who have assumed to talk officially in their unofficial representations and the statement of to-day was construed as a warning to the Mexican Government that it is futile to deal with these diplomatic buccanneries. The intimation was conveyed also to the Mexican Government, that it will not be worth while for it to approach this Government by the unofficial back door.

The Government at Washington has not sufficient evidence now to convict men of attempting to represent the American Government, but if sufficient evidence is assembled, they will be dealt with under the provisions of the Loan act, which makes it a criminal offense to assume to represent the Government of the United States in a diplomatic way.

This Government, it was made plain to-day, is ready and willing to accept any official proposals the Mexican Government may make to the United States so the ordinary relations between the two Governments may be resumed. The United States can see no reason why, if the Mexican Government is sincere in its intention of abrogating the confiscatory provisions of the Mexican Constitution, it should not make a definite undertaking to this effect in a treaty. That is all that stands between the two Governments and all that prevents recognition of the Oregon regime.

Little is known here concerning the nature of the revolutionary uprisings in Mexico. Reports indicate unrest, but there is nothing in the hands of State Department officials to indicate there is a serious threat to the stability of the Oregon Government.

The most serious situation reported applies to the oil field of Tampico, where

the Standard Oil Company is reported to have decided to close down its refineries, and where other American companies are watching developments.

Reports of increasing revolutionary activities at Juarez, just across the river from El Paso, have resulted in orders from the War Department to Brig.-Gen. Howze to watch the situation carefully. In the event of hostilities the first step will be to warn the factions to refrain from firing into the American city. Gen. Howze, who is in charge of the border patrol, has 1,500 troops at El Paso. There are 2,000 more cavalry a short distance to the west, and more than 5,000 men of the Second Division at Fort Sam Houston.

Officials were careful to make plain to-day that the orders given by Brig.-Gen. Howze for troops to hold themselves in readiness were based upon uneasiness felt by the populace as a

result of the events of the night of February 5, when a band of armed Mexicans crossed from the American side, burned three railroad bridges and attempted to hold up the Mexico City Express.

El Paso, Feb. 17.—W. B. Atwell, American commercial aviator, who was held by Mexican officials for twenty-four hours after he had made a forced landing fifteen miles south of Juarez, on Sunday, received his plane to-day, following a conference between American Vice-Consul Harper, Gen. U. T. Mendez, commander of the Juarez garrison, and Gen. Eugenio Martinez, commander of the northern military zone of Mexico. The plane was flown to Fort Bliss, from which point the aviator will resume his journey to Nogales. He was carrying a passenger and was forced to land when he ran out of gasoline.

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President Harding Sinks Half the World's Navies

"THE PESSIMIST, the prophet of evil, and the gloom pedler had a rotten day" on February 6th, when the International Conference for the Limitation of Armament closed its sessions at Washington with virtually all its objectives won, avers the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*; and most of the press seem to agree with the correspondent of the *Baltimore Sun* that the results of the Conference "exceeded all reasonable hopes."

Scarcely had this Conference, which virtually cut in half the world's present and prospective naval strength, ended, when an Associated Press dispatch from Tokyo reported that the Japanese Navy Department "has formally ordered the various dockyards to stop construction work on the eight battle-ships and battle-cruisers now on the ways, which are to be scrapped in accordance with the Conference agreement."

And simultaneously Washington dispatches stated that President Harding had ordered suspension of construction work on fourteen capital ships, "in anticipation of ratification of the naval limitation treaty, under which only three of the vessels involved will be completed as war-craft."

Secretary of State Charles E. Hughes says that the naval treaty born of the Conference "absolutely ends the race in competition in naval armament."

Arthur Balfour, head of the British delegation, declared that the work of the delegates "diminished national armaments and increased national security; removed long-standing causes of offense and substituted good will for suspicion; made peace less costly and war less probable."

Other Striking News Articles in "The Digest" This Week, February 18:

The New Pope—What Lenin May Do at Genoa—A Million a Day for Our Wounded—To Hale King Coal to Court—Poincare Under Europe's Searchlight—Russia's Fight With Famine and Disease—Greece and Peace—The "Shylock Strain" in Uncle Sam—Automatic Train Control Ordered—More Power From Niagara—The Safe and Simple Joys of Skiing—Sports and Athletics—India Reported Going Dry—Agnosticism in the Schools—"The Castle" Falls in Free Ireland—The Ferocious Lobsters of Crusoe's Isle—Weak Eyes and High Prices—Rewarding a Negro for Indicting "Civilization"—Topics of the Day.

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